



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DPI removes Northside High School from the
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**

MADISON—On January 18, 2006, the Department of Public Instruction issued a final decision and order on the eligibility of Northside High School to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

Based on months of review, including the findings of a hearing examiner, it was found that Northside High School does not meet the definition of a private school because its educational program does not provide a sequentially progressive curriculum. The order concluded that Northside High School is not a private school, and, therefore, is not eligible to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

In November 2005, preliminary findings of review were issued which stated that the evening and day educational programs of Northside High School did not provide a sequentially progressive curriculum. At a hearing with testimony of both current representatives from Northside High School and former staff members, findings show that the school's curriculum had not been established. This point was reinforced with testimony that textbooks were not purchased until weeks into the school year, the date on which instruction commenced could not be identified, and Northside administrators conceded that sequentially progressive curriculum had not yet been developed.

This order makes Northside High School ineligible to receive further Milwaukee Parental Choice Program payments and requires them to return Milwaukee Parental Choice Program payment of \$258,803.25 made in September 2005. Department of Public Instruction staff, as is departmental practice in these instances, will work with students, parents and members of the Milwaukee educational community to ensure Northside High School students can enroll in other schools.

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